The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, securing in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter September 20, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

VOL. 10. NO. 10. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1920. WHOLE NO. 478.

Investigation Demanded of Matewan Tragedy by Senate Committee

Washington, May 29.—The killing of 10 men at Matewan, W. Va., by a murderous band of representatives of the Baldwin-Felts detective agency, employed for years by the coal companies of the state to prevent the miners from organizing commenced their attack on Mayor Cabell Testman, of that town, who protested against their attempt to usurp the laws of the state, and who fell mortally wounded, and on the leader of the murderous hirelings. The shooting resulted in Testman, John Lt. Lewis, of the United Mine Workers telegraphing Governor Cromwell, requesting that he take prompt measures to "prevent further lawless violence" by the murderous hirelings of the coal operators." In his wire he says:

"For years the terrible work of this system has been pointed out, but this latest outrage indicates that little or nothing has been done to insure to peaceable citizens the right to live. Ten human lives have been sacrificed to this system and the blood of these ten men must be found on the hands of those who organized such murders, but who fail to do so.

"I desire once more to direct your attention to the failure of the state of West Virginia to afford protection to the citizens in the coal mining districts and to urge that policies be adopted and measures carried out that will prevent further lawless activities by these murderous representatives of the coal operators."

President Gompers in a letter to Senator Kenyon, chairman of the committee on labor and education, asks that have this committee investigate the killing of the ten men at Matewan, W. Va., by the representatives of the Baldwin-Felts detectives. His letter in part follows:

"The men were shot and killed by an armed band of men employed by the state by the order of and in the pay of private interests. The men who were killed were interested only in seeing that the statutes and the constitution of the state and of the United States were respected, according to the newspaper reports of the outbreak. I am of the opinion that the invasion of West Virginia by armed men of this character, the pay of absentee owners of West Virginia mining property constitutes a suspension of the constitutional guarantees.

"It will be remembered that a public official, testifying in the investigation of 1912-13 before the committee of which you are now chairman, swore that the constitution of the United States did not apply in West Virginia. It was brought out that miners had been kidnaped and given long sentences by drumhead court-martial. This also was not rebuked by West Virginia for his testimony as to it's lawlessness. On the contrary, he was appointed by the governor of the state to be the assistant to the governor in charge against the miners, their wives and their children," in the mining district of the state, which office he held within the year.

"For a generation the only law in the mining camps of West Virginia, as in those few instances where even the power of organized labor and outraged public opinion has forced the enforcement of constitutional rights has been the law of the thug and the gunman, the deputy sheriffs and usurping the police power of the land. The blackjack and the slug, the high-powered rifle and the machine gun have been substituted for statue law, judges and juries."

ENORMOUS BURDEN OF PROFITEERING

Washington, May 29.—An interesting feature of Mr. W. Jett Lauck's important report to the railroad labor board showing that profiteering and not increased labor costs caused the high cost of living, is the examination made of the income of corporations. Corporations receiving one-sixth of the corporate income of the United States, or $800,000,000 more a year during 1916-18 than during 1913-15, the corporations did as well as these, they received $4,800,000,000 more a year in those years of stress than during the prewar period.

With 116,000,000 people in the United States or 22,000,000 families of five each, every family paid $240 per year more to these corporations during the war than they did in the years before the war. It is true, however, contending that the figures for profits are much less than the reports because of various methods used to hide from the public its true profits, declaring that an average of $1,200 for a family of five in the three years 1916-18 is a highly conservative estimate of the actual cost of profiteering.

This means that the average of $400 a year was paid by each family of five to make up, not the total corporate profits during the three war years, but only those profits in excess of the prewar average, which where in the report Mr. Lauck shows that the total profits of 1917-18 were almost as much as those of 1916-18.

INFLUX OF IMMIGRANTS.

New York, May 29.—That the threatened influx of immigrants has started is evidenced by the report from Ellis Island for last week. Despite the difficulty in securing passports, 3,000 aliens have been landed. Superintendent P. A. Paker declares that the force of inspectors will have to be augmented to meet the increasing number now landing and those who are endeavoring to secure permission to come over. In telling of his experiences, he says: "Immigration is coming to this country as fast as the limited number of ships available can bring them. There is every evidence that even with the post-war restrictions there will be a tremendous rush of people to this country as soon as conditions permit. Never known in the history of immigration if there were only ships to bring them."

COMMENDABLE ACTION.

Youngstown, O., May 29.—As a result of the agreement recently reached with the Master Plumbers' association of Youngstown, 71 stockholders, members of Journeymen Plumbers and Steamfitters' Union of North America, incorporated last week a company under the laws of the state of Ohio and are now doing a prosperous business.

The new company, which will be known as the Union District Heating and Supply Co., has been incorporated for $150,000, and the value of the stock will be $10 per share. The stock has all been subscribed and the majority portion paid in.

IT'S GAIN SEVENFOLD.

New York, May 29.—The report of the Westinghouse Electric Manufacturing company for the fiscal year ending March 31 shows the gross earnings for the year were $156,-912,932; net earnings, operating profits, $15,679,830; gross income, from all sources, $16,801,163, and the net income available for dividends and other purposes, $15,202,341. In the six years ending 1915 the company's gross earnings have increased nearly five-fold and the net income over sevenfold.

JACKSON NOT LAGGING.

Jackson, Miss., May 29.—To show that Ohio city is not remiss in progressive movements the increase in number of unions is evidenced by the fact that a new union with a charter from United Brotherhood of Carpenter and Joiners has been established to be known as Mill Workers' union No. 2410.

ACTIVE IN SOUTH BEND.

South Bend, Ind., May 29.—At no time in the industrial history of this city was there a stronger sentiment in favor of organized labor, the result an active organizing campaign is being developed.

INCREASE FOR APRIL.

LaFayette, Ind., May 28.—The last issue of the Painter and Decorator announces that 20 new unions were added to list during April.

LABOR'S PROTEST AGAINST A RAMPANT TRAGEDY

Condemning the present congress on the record, President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, writing in the June issue of the American Federationist, calls for the defeat of congress in the forthcoming election and for the return to congress of men "with whom we can go forward."

Mr. Gompers declares that "regardless of whatever artificial issues politicians may seek to inject into the present political campaign, none of the issues about which the American people are thinking most seriously is the cost of living." The article continues, declaring that the cost of living "is a paramount issue because the cost of living is out of proportion to income."

Mr. Gompers continues:

"The present congress may be indicted fairly as a congress of incompetence on the cost of living issue. It may be indicted as a congress which has been derelict of duty and thoughtless of the welfare of the people. The executive departments, as for example the department of justice, may be indicted for inconsistency in the same grounds. What has been more ludicrous in American public affairs during the past year than the announcement of the department of justice that in effect they had abandoned its high cost of living campaign because of the high cost of the campaign?

"On August 8, 1919, President Wilson appealed to the people of the United States and delivered a message dealing with that high cost of living. On that occasion the president made specific suggestions to congress, which congress listened to with real or assumed respect, but to none of which congress paid any attention thereafter.

"Obviously there was no immediate improvement in the situation, for the president again addressed congress on December 1, 1919, making further recommendations as to legislative remedies and calling attention specifically to the duty of the congress to act upon his former recommendations. At this time he made additional recommendations. These too were ignored.

"The extent to which prices have risen is a matter of which every family in the country has complete knowledge in a general way, although exact and detailed information as to percentages of rates and percentages of profit is probably in the hands of but few.

Mr. Gompers here introduced a tabulation of profits reaped by leading corporations in the fourth year showing the increase over normal. It is shown that a corporation which made good profits for the last year's average 43% per cent above profits of previous years.

The article continues in part:

"If congress had seen fit to respond to the wishes of the president and enact some of the legislation suggested by him, much might have been possible to curb, at least to some extent, the high cost of living, during the necessities of life. For congress to deny that relief is possible for congress or to charge the incompetency of which the evidence abounds is for congress to confess. has found it possible to indict corner grocers and small haberdashery offenders which at the same time at all in comparison to the whole situation, but has found it impossible to advise the people to eat the poorer cuts of meat which have increased only 10 per cent in 1919 below the 1918 point. Grain, coal and cotton are the lowest articles raised and brought down the general average to a degree. Manufactured goods, such as shoes and textiles, fell off about 15 per cent, with 25 per cent the highest estimate for fabricated goods. At most about one-fourth of this amount is reported to be due to the slacking up of the workers, or about 5 per cent of the reported manufacture.

NO LABOR SHORTAGE.

New York, May 29.—In a special survey now being made by the World of the industrial conditions it already appears that the labor shortage was a controlling factor in the wa no for exercises such exag- gerations as the employers' association of Chicago. The milk mills are closing on short time, and thousands are being laid off in the shoe industry of the New England states, and the textile industry is on short time. Similar reports are coming from other sections of the country.

10,000 PER CENT ON SUGAR.

Oklahoma City, Okla., May 29.—Eleven business men of this city have been indicted by a federal grand jury, charging violations of the law by alleged profiteering in the sale of sugar. Herbert M. Prek, United States attorney for the eastern district of Oklahoma, stated the indictments showed that the charges the men had made as high as 10,000 per cent. profit on sugar within a year and that the least profit which them had made as shown by the indictments was 5,000 per cent. a year on money invested.

STREET CARMEN GET RAISE.

Evansville, Ind., May 29. — The Public Utilities company has granted an increase of 5 cents an hour, making the rate 55 cents per motormen and conductors, and 54 cents per hour for trainmen. The advance becomes effective June 1. The men employed on the Evansville and Terre Haute traction line will receive 52 cents instead of 47 cents.

HOW UNIONS GROW.

Jackson, Miss., May 29.—There are now twenty-six unions in this city. Four years ago there were only four. This indicates 550 per cent increase in four years. The per cent increase in the south is awakening to the growth of industrial democracy and those that follow in the wake'

NEW UNIONS ADDED.

Chicago, May 29.—The Plumber, Gas and Steamfitters' Journal, May reports the following new unions: Shamokin, Pa.; Corpus Christi, Texa.; Baton Rouge, La.; Lordstown, Mich.; Chatham, Ont.; Connersville, Ind., and Oriskany, Pa.

GET 20 PER CENT ADVANCE.

Cincinnati, May 28.—All the moving picture houses in the city have signed a new agreement with the Motion Picture Operators' union which carried with it an advance of 20 per cent in wages.

cuts would not really result in increase in the demand for the so-called cheaper cuts. "He said, 'If I succeed, it will.' In response to another question, Mr. Weld said, 'I am looking for the 1st of June,' and when asked flatly if the campaign would not 'raise the price of the cheaper cuts of meat' he made the direct reply, 'It will raise the price.'

"Recently a summary of the increase in the cost of living made public today and it will be a paramount issue as long as the income of the average American family is inadequate to maintain a proper scale of living. In the thousands of American working people have had little or no increase in income since 1914. That being the case they have actually been compelled to accept less than the real wages of approximately 50 per cent.

"The increase in the earnings of railroad workers was a symptom of what is coming. Only recently two classes of people were surprised by that outburst, the ignorant and the blind. The great body of railroad workers used tactics which were condemned by public opinion and which were in denial of all the training and discipline of the trade union movement in which they which were foredoomed to failure. However, the fact remains that they acted in response to a situation that was aggravating. The railroad workers' organizations, which had been for years clamoring for relief, which efforts and employers had failed to comprehend and failed to respond, had been subjected to the plaything and football of officials and employers. The great body of railroad workers has shown a patriotic restraint and a long suffering forbearance. Promise of relief has followed promise of relief. Appeals to the workers for patient have been made in the name of patriotism, in the name of fair play and fare, in the name of almost everything that could be invoked by men who have a regard for the right of thing.

"The outstanding fact in the whole situation is that the appeals of the wage-earners made in orderly manner have been ignored, appeals to proper authorities have been met with postponement after postponement.

"The appeals of the wage-earners for relief from the high cost of living, relief from profiteering, have been met with the high cost of living, relief from profiteering, have been met with the plea that the cost of living is a matter of world-wide scope, and that relief must be met with deception. It is true that relief has been heaped upon them and they have been supplied with every manner of social crime.

"Not only have the workers been denied relief, but they have been made to pay for the cost of living, not only in the increased cost of living, but on the part of a government supposed to be representative, but which is more and more responsive to isolation the only effect of which can be to bring on the very calamity it declares to the point of danger. Typical of this legislation is the Esch-Cummins railroad law which is the provision of which strikes are to all intents and purposes outlawed, that there can be no adjustment of wages while a strike is in progress. Of course, there is a long and expensive time sedition bill, which failed to become a law, but which is now organized labor movement by most energetic measures succeeded in bringing about its defeat. A further example is the Kansas court of industrial relations law, which makes it unlawful for workers to cease work—to strike. T w, which has been copied by a number of other working people violate the law, is being seriously considered in a number of other states and unless there is the greatest vigilance it will be adopted by legislatures. Take the statute books of these states where sedition is now operative, the attacks that have been made on them.

"So the proof of legislative incompetence accumulates. So the indictment against the sixty-sixth congress.

"But this does not end the story. The courts bring their assistance to those who have been so adept at plundering the people. To cite one decision—a decision of the United States supreme court: Great corporations may now evade the payment of income tax by declaring dividends payable in the form of stock instead of cash. The supreme court has decided that stock dividends are not subject to income tax. This is relief which a number of corporations have already availed themselves. It adds to the burden that is upon the shoulders of the people. It adds to the aggravation of conditions. They seek to conduct themselves patiently with reason and in accord with their traditions and discipline.

"While the legislative, administrative and judicial displays of the government have done nothing of any moment to check the rising cost of living, to relieve the people from the burden of exploitation and robbery, they have not rested with the workers free to use their economic power to secure the necessary legislative relief as might be possible through the use of that power. The workers are being patient that they use when all measures fail to secure justice—the right to cease work, the right to strike. This argument is the effective argument. They have placed a high valuation upon continuity of production than has been placed at any time. It is to be regretted that statesmanship is so shortsighted. Democracy in order to preserve itself from autocracy if from one source there are efforts to destroy the principles of democracy, it make it impossible for democracy to function, there must be from some source the effort to combat that destruction. Those who are responsible for this will, of course, seek to demean and to defame those whose effort it is to protect the safety of the institutions of the country and the liberty and the welfare of the people.

"The employers, the bourbons of industry and politics, have for months been waging a relentless vicious warfare upon the workers. For months the railroad workers have been conducting a silent, insidious warfare. Only recently have the labor movement will stand firm and will tolerate no breaking down of its ranks.

"The war of another character but it is equally vicious and is typified by the enactments and the philosophy of the present congress and the 67th congress. It will be no less incensed. The working people of the United States are aroused not only as trade unionists, but as trade unionists, workers, and American citizens.

"There is a determination throughout the United States to right the wrongs that have been inflicted.

"We are going forward in the United States. We are backward. No American citizen will rejoice that we have not been able to go forward with the present congress, but since we have not been able to go forward with the present congress. It is the duty of Americans to see to it that the congress which can go forward. To that end, they bend all effort."

"Bleating Blanton" Solicits Funds to Insure His Re-election

Washington, May 29.—Congressman Thomas L. Blanton, of Texas, has thus far failed to lodge a complaint with the department of justice as to the alleged robbery committed in his office, in which he alleges certain papers were taken which somehow later on found their way into the public press.

The paper taken from his floor over which Mr. Blanton grieves most seriously was a letter appealing for funds for his re-election. Mr. Blanton comes from Texas and the letter in question was received by a man in Maine. The appeal for funds was signed by Blanton's brother, who is also his campaign manager, and sought money from a "few business men" who have evidenced a special interest in his work."

This letter was made public by Matthew Woll, president of the Photo Engravers' union and a vice-president of the American Federation of Labor, to whom a friend gave a copy. Mr. Woll made it public. Blanton charged that the theft was the mysterious "robbery" of his desk. Mr. Woll's comments on the affair, the "bleating, blatant" are as follows:

"Commenting on the fact that I made public a copy of a letter mailed by William Blanton, brother of Congressman Blanton of Texas charges that his desk was rifled, and that Matthew Woll solved the mystery that he and the American Federation of Labor possessed a letter not for the public files.' A great many persons have amused the world by starting a cry of fire to detract attention from their own performances. It is to be hoped that Mr. Blanton will see everybody properly aroused over the alleged burglary of his desk. It is to be hoped that he will arouse the department of justice among others.

"Mr. Blanton's statement would indicate that his political headquarters and the headquarters of his personal manager are in the House office building. That would make all the more strange that the department of justice should inquire into the charge of burglary among the offices.

"Of course, the charge of burglary is not only silly and ridiculous, but it is likewise childish and puerile; however, it is all very much like Representative Blanton. He has been characterized in the house by a constituent as exhibiting a bluster which he seems determined to carry over into the campaign as his chief asset in getting re-elected. As the saviour of the American people from the labor movement, he will be an excellent collector of campaign funds, and we hope that he may have as elected him to do; also, may be not.

"A certain personage, famous in American politics, once advised a fellow politician never to write letters. Next to getting a burglar-proof lock on his desk, the best thing to do is never to write letters which may become embarrassing. Mr. Blanton has to learn, however, is not the least of the lessons Mr. Blanton has to learn."

NONPARTISAN POLICY A. F. OF L. ENDORSED

New York, May 29.—The Central Federated union at a largely attended meeting decisively repudiated its former action endorsing the so-called Labor party by a vote that leaves no doubt in the minds of thinking trade unionists as to where it stands. The vote was 124 to 18. Much political capital has been made out of the fact that the Central Federated union of the city had repudiated the plan of the A. F. of L. to adhere to its nonpartisan political policy. The radicals were successful as result of the conservative members failing to attend meetings since the endorsement of the Labor party. Realizing that if they were being misrepresented, a determination was reached to correct this misconception. The city had been spread broadcast over the country, and there is not a conservative members at the last meeting taken that no clear cut there can no longer be any misconstruction put upon it. It is the most regrettable that the action of our central bodies has not met with a will to exhibit a loyal and effect in other sections where similar action has been taken or contemplated by central bodies.

PENNSY R. R. FINED $100.

Philadelphia, May 29. — Judge Knight of the United States district court affirmed a verdict rendered by Federal Judge Cox of Pittsburg against the Pennsylvania railroad $100 for working an employe 21 hours continuously. Judge Knight in affirming the finding Judge Haladay in the lower court, ruled to be avoided is the mental and physical exhaustion of employes which is the result from requiring them to remain on duty for excessive lengths of time. "Railroad train crews excepting those on wrecking and relief engines are entitled to the protection of the federal hours of service act."

COAL COST INCREASES.

Washington, May 29.—It costs 1.49¢ coal operators from $2.17 to $2.51 to produce a ton of coal in February, 1920, according to figures made public by the federal trade commission. The cost covers the cost of labor, supplies, and general expense, and vary according to district. In the $2.17 cost district of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Southwestern Pennsylvania, it is composed of labor, $1.62; supplies, 27 cents; general expense, 20 cents.

The commission says that the increased output caused short working months and is primarily responsible for increased cost rather than increased wages, the cost having increased 36 cents per ton in February over January with no increased wages but with a decreased output.

POCKETED THEIR BILL.

Washington, May 29. — Senator Johnson of California charges the senate committee on education is pocketing the Nolan $2-a-day minimum wage bill for government employes, which passed the house of representative, but has slept undisturbed in the more congenial membership environment of the senate committee on education and labor. The steering committee determines what legislation shall be brought before the senate, typewritten copy of the bill is said to have been delivered to the men. When a former patron desires a share he will be told that the bill is being held in his home at the old rate.

BUILDING TRADES UNITE.

San Bernardio, Cal., May 29.—After many and repeated efforts the building trades council of San Bernardio and Redlands have completed a building trades council and have received a charter from the Building Trades Department of the A. F. of L. The granting of this charter will enable them to render assistance to each trade and result in bringing into the council practically all the nonunion building tradesmen in the district covered by the charter.

GRANTED $1 AN HOUR.

Jamestown, N. Y., May 29.—As a result of negotiations between representatives of the Plumbers' union and the contracting plumbers the latter have conceded the former an increase to $1 an hour. The new scale will be in force until October 1. Nonunion employed in the four mills affected have had wages advanced 15 per cent.

WON $1 AN HOUR BY STRIKE.

Duluth, Minn., May 29.—The carmen, who were compelled to strike to enforce their demands for an increase to $1 an hour, have returned to work, having secured an agreement that continues for one year.

"OPEN SHOPPERS" DEFEATED.

CTIONS VACATED.

Alton, May 29.—Judge Wesley P. Howard in the supreme court here ordered vacated the temporary injunctions obtained by the mine owners in Cohoes, Waterford and Troy centers against officials of the United Textile Workers of America from striking.

Abating this motion, Judge Howard sought to declare forty thousand workers of the Utica and Cohoes in contempt of court for leaving their work after the temporary injunction in the cases were served. They complained that the were "tired and tired."

An order seeking to restrain employes of the Erie mill from refusing to work on the Sabbath, and officer of the Amulet Association of Spinners was also was denied by Judge Howard.

The proceedings grew out of a disagreement between the United Textile Workers of America and the Amulet Association of Jack Spinners who seceded from the United Textile Workers and officials of the parent organization called a strike for May 10 which was prevented by order of the court.

CARPENTERS WIN INCREASE.

Philadelphia, May 28.—The strike of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners in Philadelphia, Camden and vicinity has been settled.

The carpenters have been granted an increase from 80 cents to $1.12 an hour for double time and time and a half for overtime, and 10 cents an hour extra for night work.

DEMAND AN INCREASE.

Madison, Wis., May 28 — Pressmen and press feeders employed in the various commercial printing plants are out demanding an increase of $5.50 a week over the present wage rate of $17 for feeders and $21 for pressmen. They are also demanding the unionizing of the various plants.

WAGES $1.25 PER HOUR.

Detroit, May 28 — As the result of the decision of a board of arbitration, the striking lathers were awarded an increase of 25 cents an hour, making the rate $18 for eight hours. Most of the contractors had already conceded the raise.

"OPEN SHOPPERS" DEFEATED.

Dallas, Tex., May 29.—The so-called "open shoppers" in this section are apparently loosing their grip. Only a few days ago practically every electrical contractor in the city was signed up with the "union-busting" organization and signed union shop agreements by the International Brotherhood. The battle has been in progress for several weeks and has involved several other unions in this section of the state. While the so-called industrial relations law, which was declared unconstitutional by the state supreme court, is still on the statute books of these states it is unlawful for workers to strike—to strike. T w, which has been copied by a number of other working people violate the law, is being seriously considered in a number of other states and unless there is the greatest vigilance it will be adopted by legislatures. Take the statute books of these states where sedition is now operative, the attacks that have been made on them.

DRUG CLERKS WIN STRIKE.

Fall River, Mass., May 29. — The union drug clerks being refused advances in wages ceased work. They demanded $30 for 48 hours and proprietors conceding all their demands, which ranged from $25 to $30 for registered men, $30 for assistants and for clerks from $22 to $12, according to length of service, and reduction to six months; a working week of 48 hours and every third Sunday off.

FORM STATE BODY.

Ft. Dodge, Ia., May 29.—The Theatrical Stage Employes and Moving Picture Operators' unions of Iowa have formed a state federation. The purpose of the organization is to get in touch with every local and also standardize the wage rates and thereby do away with the differences now existing throughout the state.

STOVE MOUNTERS WIN.

Taunton, Mass., May 29.—The unions stove mounters in this city have signed up with the manufacturers after being out 16 days. The gain is 18 per cent on piece work, and establishes a day rate of 75 cents per hour with an eight-hour day.

HUGE KODAK PROFITS.

Rochester, N. Y., May 29.—Last year's profits of the Eastman Kodak company were $13,526,183, according to the annual report just issued.

OFFERS COOPERATION.

Washington, May 29. — The resentment against the failure of congress to appropriate sufficient money to enable the department of labor is nation-wide. Employers as well as employes complain. It should be appropriated for the United States employment service, particularly.

This is shown by the following letter received by President Gompers from H. Van R. Chase, manager of operations of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange:

I am instructed to advise you that we strongly recommend and urge congress to appropriate sufficient money to conduct the department of labor so that it can function properly, and that we are in accord with the American Federation of Labor in urging congress to appropriate sufficient funds for the department of labor, and have so advised our congressmen.

This demonstrates that the opposition to the department of labor comes from the politicians and not from the fair employers of the country.

TO STANDARDIZE WAGES.

Portland, Me., May 29.—At a meeting of the New England conference board of the Molders' unions in this city it was determined to vigorously prosecute a campaign to establish uniform wage rates and conditions to cover the entire New England district. The present wage in this time is $7.20 per day, with some cities going as high as $8. The campaign is made to finance the forward movement.

GAINED UNION SHOP.

Sioux City, Ia., May 29.—Despite the bitter fight conducted by the employers seeking to exterminate all unions, the Broomakers' union has gained a victory in securing a nine-hour day and a signed contract.

AWARDED AN INCREASE.

Boise, Idaho, May 29.—As the result of an award by an arbitration the members of Typographical union were granted an increase of 75 cents per day, making the rate of $7 for day workers and $7.50 for night workers.

"ROCKEFELLER A PIKER."

New York, May 29.—"Why, Rockefeller was a piker alongside that kind of stuff," remarked Brooklyn Borough President Ridgelman after listening to Accountant Wood in Loudoun, who was testifying before the board of estimates relative to the $105,000,000 discovered in the "mystery company" of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit system, had revealed that the Loudoun Realty and Trust company named. Mr. Loudoun stated that the Loudoun company had managed to pay dividends of $3,761,-000 in 16 years on a capital of $90,-000, an aggregate dividend percentage of 3522 per cent, or about 220 per cent per year. Turning over the debit and adjustment entries Mr. Loudoun came across an item of $100,000 paid to Senator Root. He testified that he had been unable to find out what he received for his services, but would tell him what this particular entry was about. The accounting officer said he had been made before his regime.

BAKERS WON UNION SHOP.

Dallas, Tex.—May 29.—When the employing bakers attempted to force their union employes to surrender their cards and accept unfair conditions, a strike resulted, closing all the bakeries in the city. The contest lasted three days, when a settlement was reached, the employes of the union returning to work with a signed agreement, defeating the effort to make the bakers nonunion.

WAITERS AND COOKS STRIKE.

Galveston, Tex., May 29.—All hotel and restaurant waiters and cooks ceased work when refused an increase of $5 per week. Waiters get their wages up to $22.50 for 14 hours a day and seven days per week. Following the action of the workers several of the restaurateurs conceded the advance demanded. An early settlement is anticipated.

NEW UNIONS FORMED.

Cleveland, May 29.—The Latter for the current month reports the organization of 20 unions at Windsor, Ont., and Santa Ana, Cal., and the reinstatement of the union at Colorado Springs, Colo.

MUCH LOOSE TALK ABOUT DECREASED PRODUCTION

New York, May 29.—In addressing a meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, of which he is president, F. J. Miller said:

"There is a good deal of loose talk about decreased production. I am by no means sure that production has decreased generally in these days, the productivity of the workers has increased, but whether it has much upon how you treat the men, and also very much upon how you apply administrative functions of an establishment are carried on. The question is: Does the management inspire the men to do their best? When the management fails to lead or to inspire, it is easy to blame our troubles on the 'wicked workmen.'

"Management must realize that the workmen are possessed of human rights and that he demands a larger share in the product of industry. If the workmen does not want shower baths in the factory he wants to wash them in his home. He wants good wages so that he may have his own home and he wants to be convinced that the comforts of modern civilization and the wants of his family are his good things, material and spiritual, life has to offer us."

PENSION BILL SIGNED.

Washington, May 29.—The Sterling-Lehlbach bill granting pensions to civil employes of the government, signed by President Wilson, and will result in immediately retiring approximately 2,000 employes of the District of Columbia from government service, and offers a life service to the 100,000 employes of others here. This legislation is the culmination of years of effort to fight for the retirement of superannuated government employes. The bill was drafted by the United American Federation of Labor and continued activity by the federation congress until the National Federation of Federal Employes was formed. The latter organization like every organization has been unceasingly active in securing the passage of legislation, and is recognized by the American Federation of Labor. Their joint efforts have been crowned with success.

NEW AGREEMENTS SIGNED.

Houston, Tex., May 29.—Two new agreements have just been signed by the general contractors of Houston and labor unions, each effective June 1. One is the bricklayers' union, which increases the wage scale being fixed at $1.50 per hour. The second agreement covers the pile drivers, bridge, dock and wharf builders, effective June 1, and fixes the wage scale at 80 cents per hour for 19 months. These make a total of four contracts that have been signed recently in Houston, all effective June 1, with the exception of the iron workers for 19 months, each at wage advances.

DISCREDIT PROFITEERING.

Yonkers, N. Y., May 29.—The members of the Journeyman Barbers' union have taken active opposition to assist in boosting the price of shaving from 20 to 25 cents and the cutting from 35 to 50 cents. Had they accepted, the employing barbers would have refused to accede a slight advance the journeymen had requested. Some shops have settled to the new rate. When a former patron desires a shave he will be told that the price of the barber will be sent to shave him in his home at the old rate.

BARKERS GAIN ADVANCE.

Cincinnati, May 28.—Following a two-day strike the bakers and confectionery workers increased $3 per week for journeymen and $7 for helpers. The advance is retroactive to May 1. The new scale calls for $37 and the maximum $40 with $42 as an agreement divided percentage of 2522 per cent, or about 10 per cent per ton in February over January with no increased wages but with a decreased output.

BARRICADES WORK.

Syracuse, N. Y., May 28.—The publishers of three daily papers refused to meet the demands of the pressmen for an advance in wages of $5 per week. Conferences failed to result in settlement, and it reached that gave the workers an increase of $3, making the wage $38 for day men and $41 for night work.

BEVERAGE WORKERS GAIN.

Evansville, Ind., May 29.—Beverage workers in this city have secured agreements providing for improved conditions. These employes are affiliated with the United Brewery, Flour, Cereal and Soft Drink Workers.

RUBBER WORKERS GAIN.

Butte, Mont., May 28.—Organized rubber and tire workers have adjusted wage differences with an advance.